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APPLICATION NOTE NO. 19

Revised May 2007

SBE 27 or 30 Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP) Sensor

The SBE 27 and 30 include a Sea-Bird pH sensor to which a platinum electrode has been added. The electrode potential (in water) is measured differentially with respect to the pH sensor's silver-silver chloride reference junction. This differential voltage is offset and scaled to provide a high-level, ground-referenced, 0-to-5 Volt output.

Note: For proper operation, remove the pH soaker bottle and immerse the pH electrode, platinum electrode (near the base of the pH electrode shield), and at least part of the SBE 30 aluminum housing in the water.

ORP Calibration and Use of Sea-Bird Software

To calibrate the ORP electronics, Sea-Bird places a short-circuit between the internal wire connecting to the platinum electrode and signal ground; the measured output is the value of *B* required in the CTD configuration (.con) file. Next, we apply 1.000 Volts to the electrode and record the *change* in output. The .con file *M* entry is 1 volt/*change*. The electrical components upon which the gain and offset depend are extremely stable, and no subsequent calibrations should be necessary.

In our SEASOFT-Win32 suite of programs, edit the CTD configuration (.con) file using the Configure Inputs menu in SEASAVE V7 (real-time data acquisition software) or the Configure menu in SBE Data Processing (data processing software). Select *Oxidation Reduction Potential* as a voltage sensor when editing the .con file; the software prompts for *M*, *B*, and offset, and calculates ORP as:

$$\text{ORP (milliVolts)} = M * (V - B) * 1000.0 + \text{offset (milliVolts)}$$

where:

- *V* = **measured** voltage in Volts (0 to 5V)
- *M* = slope *M* from the ORP calibration sheet
- *B* = offset *B* from the ORP calibration sheet
- offset = **user-supplied** offset in milliVolts; enter 0 unless attempting to compensate for discrepancies between ORP as measured by the SBE 27 or 30 and other instruments.

Note: The ORP channel voltage (*V* in the equation above) in the raw data file is the sensor output voltage, not the Oxidation Reduction Potential. You can view and/or plot both the raw voltage (in Volts; 0 to 5 Volts) and the calculated ORP (in milliVolts); do not confuse these.